



# COLINTON GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

Newsletter  
No 140  
August 2022

**Next Members'  
Meeting: Monday 26<sup>th</sup>  
September 8.00 pm**

**2022/23 Membership &  
Autumn Fertiliser Order  
Forms with this  
newsletter – see p. 4**

**Summer Days in  
Colinton....**



Many more photos at  
[www.colintongardens.org.uk/  
galleries](http://www.colintongardens.org.uk/galleries)

Dear Friends

It's the height of summer at the moment - so no doubt some of you will be lounging on your lawns or enjoying picnics and barbeques - others will be watering madly! Thank heavens water restrictions are rare in Scotland....

The weather has been very varied this summer - a prolonged chilly Spring at least kept this year's tulips flowering for longer than usual, and now a dry summer seems to have been good for roses and strawberries at least. What does the weather hold for us next, I wonder? We live in uncertain times

Despite Covid, your club has had a busy and successful summer. Our May evening visit to Shepherd House gave us an opportunity to see not only each other, but a garden beautifully cared for by Sir Charles and Lady Fraser - what an example to us all - they are now well into their 9<sup>th</sup> decade, planning improvements and maintaining this intricate garden with very little help. Gardening must be good for you!

Three members kindly offered their gardens for the Saturday morning Open Gardens - all different, and one in a stage of development, but much loved, and full of interesting features and ideas. Over 100 coffees and teas were drunk, and the plant sale a great success. Thankyou to everyone who made that morning such fun.

The annual summer coach outing was fully subscribed - do see the photos - first we sped to Kailzie Gardens where a warm welcome and refreshments awaited us from the new owners Steve and Susan Plag, (whom many of you will remember from their previous CGC involvement). What beautiful gardens, and how impressive are their newly restored glasshouses. /pto



**For sale: ALLETT Cylinder Mower (a make favoured by  
greenkeepers and cricket groundsmen)**



- Petrol engine
- 14" wide cut
- Interchangeable scarifier cartridge
- 5 years old but little used
- Fully serviced
- Price new today £779
- Best offer by **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August** will be donated to the RBGE
- To view (in Colinton) e-mail [jm.heardman@virginmedia.com](mailto:jm.heardman@virginmedia.com)

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Then we travelled over the hills to Stobshiel House where a dedicated team were waiting to show us their magnificent grounds, and amazing walled gardens with head high herbaceous borders. Forgive all my superlatives, but they were super. Bringing us back to earth, so to speak, we learnt hard work and a lot of manure was behind the success.

Finally, we visited two small gardens (and their dedicated owners) in Humbie - again, so charming and beautiful in the June sun. Altogether a great day, and thanks to organisers Ian Forder and Anne Siller.

After several years' service, Anne and Ian and also Susan McMaster have now left the committee - they have all contributed greatly to the club; as ever, new blood is required so we invite any members interested in joining the committee to contact us.

Our Autumn programme is arranged, and, as Covid hopefully continues to be less of a hazard, we look forward to seeing you soon.

With best wishes

*Penny McKee*

### ***Autumn Plant Sale – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022***

The Autumn Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 1st October 2022 at St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

We are hoping to have a wide range of plants for sale, including fruit and vegetables and would welcome donations. This is the time to start planning and potting for well-rooted plants. These may be brought to the hall at 8.30am on the morning of the sale or delivered to any committee member on the Friday evening. Please ensure that you label all items with the name and, if possible, the colour and height/spread of the plant.

A bulb stall will be available, providing a wide variety of spring bulbs for sale at competitive prices.

Enjoy a tea or coffee and take the opportunity to chat with fellow members and friends.

### ***A summer of sunshine, gardens and flowers!***

The Garden Club had a number of garden-based social activities in 2022 after a break of two years. Feast your eyes on these photos which include Open Gardens morning in Colinton in June, the visit to Shepherd House Garden, and of course our popular Summer Outing in July to Humbie. Many more photos on the website.



***Too many tomatoes? – don't panic! Anne Siller writes...***

Mmmm! That intoxicating, spicy, leafy scent of plucking ripe tomatoes fresh from the vine! That glorious sweetness of a cherry tomato popped straight into the mouth, before it's even left the greenhouse! That firm ball of juice, sliced into a summer salad! Heavenly!

But what to do with a glut of tomatoes? Yes, of course there are countless recipes to try ... but if your summer schedule does not include time for kitchen wizardry (I'd rather be wearing flip-flops than oven-gloves when the sun shines) or if your vines are heavy with plump, green tomatoes that are going to ripen the very fortnight that you are on holiday... what can you do?

Easy! Freeze them! Yes – even the green ones! Enjoy that Summer flavour even in the heart of Winter!

There are as many methods to freeze tomatoes as there are varieties! But here's what works for me:

- Select clean, dry, full-size fruits, with no signs of splits, rot or mould
- No need to cut, skin or seed them, but do remove the green calyx off the tops. If your tomatoes are particularly big and beefy, you may wish to cut in half and remove the tough central core
- Grouping the tomatoes into their sizes, varieties and ripeness, makes it easier to select the appropriate ones for your recipes later on
- Prepare room in your freezer to accommodate some baking trays for the next few hours. (Perhaps the most difficult part of the exercise!) Take a drawer out if necessary, so that you can lay the trays flat
- Place the (grouped) tomatoes as single layers onto the trays. The trays can be placed on top of each other with some sheets of greaseproof paper or a piece of cardboard between them.
- Once the tomatoes have frozen hard, they can be tipped off the trays into labelled, airtight grip seal bags, and returned to the freezer until needed. Do not worry if some tomatoes split during freezing
- Skin will come off ripe tomatoes very easily once they start to defrost. However *do not defrost green tomatoes before trying to peel them*. You will end up screaming. If you need to de-skin them, blanch them for a few seconds in boiling water while still frozen, and the skins should simply slip off.
- Bear in mind that defrosted tomatoes will be softer and more watery than fresh tomatoes. They won't work so well in raw, salad-type dishes, and you might need to add less liquid than a recipe states. But otherwise, they are simply perfect in any recipes that require chopping, cooking or using tinned tomatoes. Ideally suited to soups, stews, pastas, risottos and curries, chutneys, salsas and sauces, relishes and pastes. The possibilities are endless, and the flavour beats tinned tomatoes any day!

The BBC Food, Olive or Delicious Magazine Websites have lots of useful recipes to try, but there are literally thousands of ideas on the internet for tomato dishes. You could also revisit the CGC Website for a Green Tomato Chutney recipe (which works well with frozen toms) which appeared in the October 2020 edition of the newsletter.

**And remember... 'Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad'.**



<b>MEETINGS 2022/23</b>	<b>Monday member meetings at 8.00 pm in Dreghorn Loan Church Hall</b>
Monday 26 September 2022	Our speaker will be Iain Silver and his topic will be <b>'Roses'</b>
<b>Saturday 1 October 2022</b>	<b>Autumn Plant Sale - St Cuthbert's Scottish Episcopal Church, Westgarth Avenue</b>
Monday 24 October 2022	Our speaker will be Alan Watson Featherstone and his topic will be <b>'Restoring the Caledonian Forest, and beyond'</b>
Monday 28 November 2022	Our speaker will be Pam Martin and her topic will be <b>'Sustainable Gardening'</b>
Monday 12 December 2022	<b>CGC Christmas Party!</b>
Monday 23 January 2023	Our speaker will be Colin Wren, and his topic will be <b>'My role as Garden and Designed Landscape Manager for the National Trust for Scotland'</b>
Monday 27 February 2023	This meeting will be our <b>Members' Evening</b> when members give short talks
Monday 27 March 2023	Our speaker will be Andrew Cathcart, the topic will be <b>'Planting Summer Containers'</b> (part slides, part demo – container will be raffled)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	This will be our <b>AGM</b> and will include a demonstration of members' art and creativity

**Membership form 2022/23 Colinton Garden Club – time to act!**

Membership Renewal fees for 2022-23 are due now. The Annual Subscription is £8.00 per household - a bargain! Please see attached membership form for full details on renewing membership/ joining the Club.

**Fertiliser and Compost Orders**

Liz Windle, Purchasing Officer writes *'Dear Members, once again it's time to be thinking about your Autumn orders for composts and fertilisers from Garden Solutions. Do have a look at their website ([www.gardensolutions.info](http://www.gardensolutions.info)) for more information about the products to help you decide what you need. The order form is attached, and is also available on the CGC website. Please print it out, fill it in and send to me by **Sunday 11th September 2022**. Pay by BACS or enclose a cheque with your order made payable to Colinton Garden Club, and please keep a copy of your order.*

*Garden Solutions have asked me to remind you that bags will be delivered to front gardens or at the back against the house wall only. This will enable the team to deliver all the Club's orders within one day. Please indicate your preference on the order form.'*

**Jubilee Tree!**

Shona Harrower writes: 'CGC was invited to plant a sweet chestnut tree to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee: donated by CEC, here are two strong council gardeners digging it in, and members of the CGC committee symbolically shovelling compost on, to finalise the planting. Hopefully in a few years, it will begin to bear fruit to compliment the rapidly growing community orchard already established at Campbell Park.'

